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# Hillary's homage to Soweto children

US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton paid homage yesterday to young Blacks killed fighting for liberation under South Africa's former government, saying the freedom they fought for had come to pass.

Mrs Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, 17, watched as two school-children laid a wreath at the grave of Hector Peterson, a teenage boy who was the first to die in Soweto in June 1976, during massive demonstrations.

Nearly 700 people died

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# Hillary's homage in Soweto

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in the violence that followed.

Mrs Clinton told a ceremony at the monument that she mourned for those youths "who did not live to see this day in this country".

"But in the faces of the children I saw this morning I hope there is the consolation that what they fought and died for has come to pass," she said.

The premier of Gauteng, Tokyo Sexwale, told Mrs Clinton his country had come a long way since the Soweto riots.

"You stand on sacred ground, because here our children fell in the quest for that which is still elusive to many people across the world," he said.

"Our people have begun, both Black and White, to find safety and comfort in the arms of one another."

Mrs Clinton was in Soweto at the start of a three-day visit to South Africa.

"I come to South Africa today on behalf of my husband and my country, to thank you for the struggle you went through and the courage that it took and, also, to acknowledge

that it will take courage of a different kind to do what must be done," she said.

"We have been at the work of building a democracy for more than 200 years in the United States and it is still not what it should be. We still have not fulfilled our own stated ideals. But we keep trying."

"We want Chelsea," an exuberant crowd chanted from behind barricades when Mrs Clinton and her daughter visited the memorial.

"She is so young, so cute. She can give our youngsters spirit," Eliza Mgwenya, 56, said of Chelsea.

Mrs Mgwenya was close by when Hector Petersen, the first fatality of the Soweto uprising, was shot by police.

She said she was part of a large crowd that had gathered from 11 am yesterday to see the Clintons.

Nomsa Nkosi, 36, who was the same age as Petersen and attended the same school next to the memorial, said of the Clintons: "We love them. We are so pleased to see them in South Africa."

A main theme of Mrs Clinton's two-week good-will tour of six African na-

tions is to promote better health and education for women and children, and she was guest of honour at a discussion between prominent South African women on crime and domestic violence.

Adelaide Tambo, a Member of Parliament and widow of the late chairman of the ANC, Oliver Tambo, told the meeting how women in one village had dealt with a man who kept sexually abusing his child.

"The women felt the law had failed them, so they got hold of the man and cut off his penis," she said.

Another topic which was discussed was prostitution.

Guateng provincial policing minister Jessie Duarte suggested that South Africa "move to regulation of the people in the sex-work industry" as part of the fight against AIDS, among other reasons.

Mrs Clinton said she did not think this a good idea because it could be seen as "sending a message to families that they might possibly have their daughters enlisted in this trade".

Mrs Clinton said the United States was committed to helping South

Africa meet the many challenges it faced.

Echoing US Vice President Al Gore's message from a recent visit here, Mrs Clinton said: "America remains firmly committed to working with South Africa to address these issues."

She travels to Cape Town today where she is due to join Pres Mandela and actor Bill Cosby for a celebration at Robben Island.

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